

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174095

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 3018 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 08 JUL
78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, PDEV, SU

SUBJ: INAUGURAL SESSION OF OAU MINISTERIAL

1. I ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE OAU MINISTERIAL
LAST EVENING, JULY 7. PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING
WERE EXCELLENT. LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AS OUTGOING
OAU MINISTERIAL CHAIRMAN, PRESIDED.

2. ASSUME TEXT OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S OPENING SPEECH AVAIL-
ABLE TO DEPARTMENT VIA FBIS. NIMEIRI STUCK TO VERY HIGH
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GROUND THROUGHOUT. THRUST OF HIS MESSAGE WAS THAT AFRICANS
SHOULD SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND THAT FAILURE TO DO SO
"WILL INVITE GREAT POWER INTERVENTION AND WILL SHIFT INTERNATIONAL
CONFLICT WITH ALL ITS DANGERS AND THREATS TO OUR COUNTRY."
NIMEIRI ALSO ASKED THE CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER STRENGTHENING
THE POWERS OF OAU SECGEN, SCHEDULING SUMMIT MEETINGS
MORE OFTEN THAN ONCE A YEAR, AND ESTABLISHING A

"BODY WITH LIMITED MEMBERSHIP TO ASSIST THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SESSION IN SOLVING THE URGENT PROBLEMS THAT ARISE DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE." HE ALSO URGED MINISTERS TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATING SOME KIND OF PURELY AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER OF NIGERIA GAVE BRIEF SPEECH IN ENGLISH IN RESPONSE TO NIMEIRI'S OPENING REMARKS. NIGERIAN DECRIED THOSE WHO THOUGHT SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS IN QUOTE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, LONDON, PARIS AND EVEN BRUSSELS. UNQUOTE.

4. AT THIS POINT, REPRESENTATIVE OF SWAPO WAS SCHEDULED TO RESPOND TO NIMEIRI IN THE NAME OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME WAS CALLED, BUT HE DID NOT APPEAR.

5. AS OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER TURAIKI THEN GAVE FAIRLY LENGTHY SPEECH WHICH WAS JUST ABOUT WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM A LIBYAN. HE ACCUSED NATO COUNTRIES OF CREATING THE RACIST REGIMES OF SOUTH AFRICA, SIMBABWI AND NAMIBIA, AND INPLANTING ZIONISM IN PALESTINE. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SUDAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEDIATION EFFORT IN CHAD. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE LINKS BETWEEN THE AFRICANS AND THE ARABS.

6. AT THIS POINT, ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE AROSE ON A POINT OF ORDER TO SAY THAT ZAIRE DID NOT INTEND
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TO ALLOW INSULTS OR MISSTATEMENTS OF FACT TO BE DIRECTED TO IT. LIBYAN FONMIN RESPONDED RATHER WEAKLY, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD NAMED NO COUNTRIES IN HIS SPEECH. MAURITANIAN REPRESENTATIVE THEN TOOK THE FLOOR ON A POINT OF OFDER, AND SAID THAT JUST AS HIS COUNTRY RESERVED ITS RIGHT TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM ANY OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRY, MAURITANIA ALSO WAS READY TO ASSIST ANY SISTERLY STATE TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND UNITY. MAURITANIA DEMANDED THE TEXT OF FUTURE SPEECHES BE DELIVERED BEFORE THE MEETINGS AND THAT MEMBERS BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO REPLY TO THEM.

7. AT THIS POINT ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE ASKED FOR THE FLOOR. HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO, WHO ON POINT OF ORDER ASKED THAT MEETING BE ADJOURNED. HE SAID IT WAS NOT PROPER FOR AFRICANS TO DISCUSS THEIR DIFFERENCES BEFORE THE PRESS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. "FOR THE SAKE OF AFRICA," HE SAID, "LET US ADJOURN AT ONCE." ALGERIAN THEN REPORTED THAT SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE HAD APPEARED AND WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SPEECH. LIBYAN CHAIRMAN RULED THAT MOTION TO ADJOURN TOOK PRECEDENCE AND SAID THAT SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE COULD SPEAK ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

8. A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED AND THE SESSION AGREED TO SEND A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA BISSAU WHO WAS KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT YESTERDAY.

9. COMMENT: IF INAUGURAL SESSION SETS THE TONE FOR THE REST OF THE MINISTERIAL, IT SEEMS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF MODERATE STATES DO NOT INTEND TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THE RADICALS.
BERGUS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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